

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ARAE-00 IO-10 /067 W

----- 060911

P R 301200Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2187

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2206

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR BR GY

SUBJ: PRIMIN BURNHAM ALLEGES BRZAIL ADOPTING HOSTILE PLANS
TOWARDS GUYANA

REF: A. GEORGETOWN 2047, 2082; B. BRASILIA 10442 (NOTAL)

1. TOWARDS CLOSE OF MY CONNVERSATION DEC 26 WITH PM
BURNHAM AND FONMIN FRED WILLS, FORMER ASKED ME WHY
USG HAD NOT PROTESTED TO BRAZIL OVER ITS MANIFEST
POLICY OF ATTEMPTING TO INTERFERE IN GUYANA'S DOMESTIC
AFFAIRS BY VARIOUS ACTIONS, WHICH BY NOW ARE
GENERALLY LABELED AMONG GOG OFFICIALS AS QUOTE DESTABILIZING
UNQUOTE. I SAID FONMIN HAD SHARED HIS CONCERN WITH ME ON ONE OR TWO
OCCASIONS, INCLUDING REPORTS REGARDING TROOP AUGMENTATION ON
BRAZILIAN FRONTIER WITH GUYANA, AGITATION AMONG GUYANESE
AMERINDIANS, AND ANTI-GOG ARTICLES IN BRAZILIAN PRESS. I HAD ALSO
DISCUSSED SOME OF THESE REPORTS WITH MY BRAZILIAN COLLEAGUE.
HOWEVER, I HAD MADE NO PROTEST TO BRAZILIAN COLLEAGUE, NOR
TO MY KNOWLEDGE HAD ONE BEEN MADE IN WASHINGTON OR BRASILIA,
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BECAUSE OUR INQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATION HAD FAILED TO COME UP

WITH ANY CONFIRMATION OF THE REPORTS IN QUESTION. AS TO THE PRESS, I SAID THAT I HAD ALREADY INDICATED TO WILLS THAT ESTADO DE SAO PAULO WAS LEAST LIKELY OF ALL BRAZILIAN NEWS MEDIA TO LEND ITSELF TO A GOB PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

2. BURNHAM THEN REMARKED THAT SMALL NATIONS LIKE GUYANA CAN'T HOPE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST SUPERPOWERS OR EVEN LARGER NEIGHBORS, BUT HE WAS TAKING STEPS TO MAKE SURE GUYANA WOULD GIVE GOOD ACCOUNT OF ITSELF, AND IT WAS ONLY NATURAL TO BE LOOKING FOR FRIENDLY SUPPORT IN OTHER QUARTERS. HE ASKED WHY USG HAD REFUSED TO SELL ARMS TO GUYANA. I SAID WE HAD JUST SOLD GOG QUANTITY OF PISTOLS THROUGH BRITISH CROWN AGENT. BURNHAM SAID HE MEANT REAL WEAPONS, SPECIFICALLY MODERN AUTOMATIC REFLES WHICH HE HAD HAD TO BUY ELSEWHERE. HE SAID REFUSAL HE MENTIONED WAS SOME YEARS AGO AND WAS BASED ON FACT GUYANA NOT IN OAS OR OTHERWISE COVERED BY DEFENSE TREATY. I SAID TREATY RELATIONSHIP USUALLY AFFORDED CREDITTERMS, AND SOME PRICE CONCESSIONS, BUT I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY RESTRICTION ON STRAIGHT CASH PURCHASES, AT LEAST AS REGARDS GUYANA.

3. WE ARE PICKING UP INCREASING NUMBER OF INDICATIONS, BOTH OPEN AND COVERT, OF BURNHAM'S APPARENT BELIEF THAT BRAZIL IS ACTUALLY EMBARKED ON CAMPAIGN OF HOSTILITY TOWARDS GUYANA. IN DEDICATING COOPERATIVE VILLAGE DEC 14, HE DWELT ON THEME OF EXTERNAL THREAT AT SOME LENGTH, WITHOUT IDENTIFYING WHENCE THREAT EMANATING. HE SPELLED OUT MOTIVATION, #923;34, AS IDEOLOGICAL, I.E. SUCCESS OF GUYANA IN BUILDING SOCIALIST STATE ON SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINENT IS SEEN AS THREAT TO STABILITY BY CAPITALIST REGIMES. HE EXHORTED LISTENERS TO EXPECT TROUBLE ON THIS FRONT IN 1976 AND TO BE PREPARED TO DEFEND COUNTRY.

4. AT NOON RECEPTION DEC 29, SIR LIONEL LUCKHOO, FORMER GOG HICOM IN LONDON, LEADING BARRISTER AND CONFIDENT OF BORNHAM, TOOK ME ASIDE TO ASK ME ABOUT BRAZILIAN THREAT. HE SAID BURNHAM HAD JUST TOLD HIM BRAZIL IS MASSING TROOPS ON FRONTIER, SITUATION IS EXTREMELY THREATENING, AND HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH LUCKHOO. LUCKHOO ASKED ME WHAT I KNEW ABOUT THIS, AND I DREW ON REFTEL C, PLUS PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE TO REPLY THAT I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO CONFIRMATION OF ANY MANEUVER OR TROOP

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MOVEMENTS BY BRAZILALONG GUYANESE FRONTIER AND THAT I COULDN'T FIND ANY LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR PM'S CONCERN. I SAID QUITE FRANKLY I WAS LEFT TO WONDER WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE SOME DOMESTIC PROBLEM WHICH CALLED FOR DIVERSIONARY TREATMENT. LUCKHOO THANKED ME AND SAID HE WOULD LET ME KNOW IF HE GOT ANY FURTHER PARTICULARS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED AND COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION

OR GUIDANCE WHICH BRASILIA MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ON THIS
SUBJECT. THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT ESCALATION SINCE EARLY
DECEMBER IN THE INTENSITY OF WHAT WE EARLIER CALLED QUOTE MILD
PARANOIA UNQUOTE OF BURNHAM AND WILLS ON BRAZIL. IN ABSENCE
OF ANY INFORMATION TO GIVE CREDENCE TO GOG ALLEGATIONS, IT
BEGINS TO LOOK MORE AND MORE AS THOUGH BURNHAM IS CONJURING
UP AN EXTERNAL THREAT EITHER TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM A SERIOUS
DOMESTIC PROBLEM (WHICH WE ARE EQUALLY UNABLE TO DISCOVER)
OR ELSE TO MASK PREPARATIONS FOR INTRODUCING SOME UNPOPULAR
MEASURE(S) (CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM MIGHT FIT THIS DESCRIPTION).
KREBS

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